ABSTRACT

A visualization method for a hub network configuration allows exploration of a chosen network by way of a graphical display interface (GUI), wherein multiple distinct network segments such as lines or rings are shown attached to a common node or centralized hub. The technique combines a graphical view of the segments controlled by a segment selector. The selector is coupled to a series of display indicators and a list of the attached rings contained in the network. The list can contain descriptive elements of the segments, or can provide links to such detail. A mutually exclusive selection of the attached segments is enabled using either the selector or the list of attached segments. For each segment selected, the display indicators can show the currently displayed segments on the GUI, help to highlight on the GUI a selected attached segment and provide an indication of attached segments that are related in function to the selected segment. Selected and remaining segments of the network are displayed in various shadings or colours, which enables a Network Manager or other user of the system and method to easily distinguish and consider these aspects alternatively. In the graphical view, attached segments can be displayed in stacked, overlaid, or isolated formats. The segments can consist of rings, lines, stars, bars, and chains.